

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EUR-25 AF-10

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4729

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BEIRUT FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PARTY

E.O. 11652 N/

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON POSTPONEMENT OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE

1. ALL DECEMBER 16 CAIRO NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE POSTPONEMENT OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE UNTIL DECEMBER 21. AHRAM STATES THAT FONMIN FAHMY ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT DEC 15, ATTRIBUTING IT TO "CONTACTS NOW TAKING PLACE REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE". FAHMY REPORTEDLY POINTED TO HIS CONTACTS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS, EGYPTIAN PERMREP IN UN ISMAT ABDEL MEGUID, AND MEETINGS HELD DEC 15 WITH US, SOVIET AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS REGARDING POSTPONEMENT AND STATED THAT EGYPT'S DECISION TO GO TO GENEVA IS IN LINE WITH SADAT'S POLICY OF EXERTING EFFORTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS: FAHMY ALSO STATED THAT THERE WAS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND THE BATTLE.

2. AHRAM'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT (IN FACT HAMDI FUAD, A PROTEGE OF HEYKEL AND CONFIDANT OF FAHMY) LINKS THE FOLLOWING
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DEVELOPMENTS TO THE POSTPONEMENT.

A. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CRISIS REGARDING THE GOI'S POSITION
TOWARD THE CONFERENCE.

B. INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS NOW TAKING PLACE. AHARAM STATES THAT
NON-ALIGNED STATES PLAYED A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THESE CONTACTS AND
IN ENDEAVORING TO SECURE FOR THE UN A ROLE OF DIRECT RES-
PONSIBILITY IN THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE
IN THE ME. PAPER REPORTS THAT RECENT INTERNATIONAL
CONTACTS HAVE RESULTED IN A DECISION BY THE US AND SOVIET UNION
TO GIVE THE UNSYG "THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE HIS RESPONSIBILITY
WHILE THEY BEAR THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY IN A WAY THAT AVOIDS
CONFLICT".

3. AHARAM AND OTHER PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA "HAVE NOT GONE SMOOTHLY"
AND NOTE STATEMENT BY SYRIANS SOURCE THAT DEALING WITH THE
POW ISSUE WOULD BE A "WASTE OF TIME". PRESS ALSO NOTES
THAT SADAT MET DECEMBER 15 WITH HAFEZ ISMAIL AND FAHMY ,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS ABDEL FATTAH ABDULLAH
AND SEPARATELY LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD JALLUD TO INFORM THEM ABOUT
RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT.

4. COMMENT: POSTPONEMENT OF CONFERENCE IS PLAYED IN ALL PAPERS
AS IF IT WERE A DIRECT RESULT OF DECISIONS REACHED BY ALL CONCERNED
PARTIES WITHOUT NEGATIVE OVERTONES.
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